

Attorney Docket No.: 432250

### REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Claims 5 and 6 are currently amended.

The Office has made a restriction requirement to one of six groups. Claims 1-3 and 9 are deemed to be linking claims and will be examined along with any one of elected Groups I-III. The Applicant provisionally and without prejudice elects Group I with traverse.

Traverse is made because the restriction requirement is incomplete and Applicant prefers to elect the group of the linking claims. MPEP §814 says that "every claim should be accounted for," but the requirement as stated does not account for claims I-III in any one group. By electing this group of linking claims, Applicant also elects Groups I, II, and III.

It will be appreciated that claim 1 recites a method of administering an effective amount of an alpha-t6 subunit containing integrin-mediated signal transduction pathway modification agent. The use of this material is generic to all of the independent claims in the application and, consequently, claim 1 is generic. The inventions as grouped by the Office are not independent, nor are they patentably distinct because they all require the use of this same material at this generic level.

The Office finds that Groups I-IV and VI are different methods; however, this finding ignores the linking subject matter at the generic level. Applicant's attorney respectfully submits that the requirement should be withdrawn.

The Office has made a separate requirement to elect species in the event that the Group I-III claims are elected. Applicant's attorney fails to understand the requirement and requests an explanation. It is impossible, for example, to elect this single species in context of claim 2 (as used by the Office to illustrate the example) because claim 2 recites a plurality of species and so cannot be restricted to a single species. The same is true of claim 3 and of claim 6. The Office bases this requirement on the belief that these

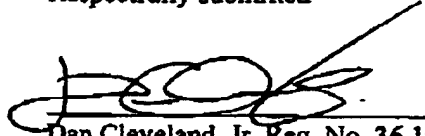
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compositions address different therapeutic endpoints; however, this is untrue for example where claim 6 depends from claim 5 and the common therapeutic endpoint is to treat an inflammation. The dependencies of claims 5 and 6 have been changed by amendment to address any confusion that may have derived from lack of proper antecedents.

To the extent that the requirement is understood and the requirement is practicable, Applicant provisionally and without prejudice elects the species of claim 6. Since Applicant's election of a linking claim also preserves Groups IV or V, election of the species of claim 6 is also made with respect to Groups IV or V.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the appropriate fees to Deposit Account 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted



Dan Cleveland, Jr. Reg. No. 36,106  
Lathrop & Gage L.C.  
4845 Pearl East Circle, Suite 300  
Boulder, CO 80301  
(720) 391-3012 (phone)  
(720) 931-3001 (fax)